

October 20, 1953

Mr. Norbert B. Moffatt
6378 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys, California

Dear Mr. Moffatt:

This letter is addressed to you in your capacity as chairman of the committee commemorating fifty years of progress and growth in San Fernando Valley and, in that connection, honoring two great, pioneering leaders of thought and action, William P. Whitsett and Walter Mendenhall. The concerted community participation, the leadership, and the personalities involved should make the occasion an outstanding success and one long to be remembered in the annals of the Valley.

I would certainly enjoy being present. It so happens that on that very day, Mrs. Jensen and I are departing by air on a vacation among the west coastal nations of South America. However, I do feel that I would be remiss if I did not convey to you the respects and tributes of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to their associate, companion, and leader for so many years, Mr. William Paul Whitsett. He has been called the Father of Van Nuys. With equal justification he could be called the Father of the Colorado River Aqueduct development. From the first inception of the project, through the legislative battles at Washington and Sacramento, and in the formation of the District and its organization, he was a leader of vision and great executive capacity.

During the eighteen years that saw the Aqueduct construction completed and its efficient operation thoroughly established, he devoted himself almost exclusively to this undertaking without any reward or compensation other than the inner satisfaction deriving from a monumental task well done in the public interest.

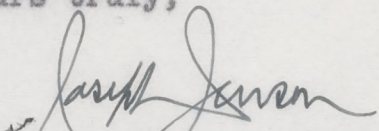
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He voluntarily retired as the chairman of the Board of Directors and a director in 1947 to devote himself to his much neglected personal affairs. His great contributions to the economic life of Van Nuys, which he loves and in which he enjoys so much pride, are too well known by his fellow citizens to justify any comment from me.

I might add that Walter Mendenhall, while not directly connected with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, has been a tireless warrior in the great fight for an adequate water supply for Southern California.

Although I cannot be with you in person, my thoughts will be with you on this worthy occasion and with the great men you are honoring.

Yours truly,


Joseph Jensen, Chairman
Board of Directors